

To: Mahmud, Shahid[Mahmud.Shahid@epa.gov]
Cc: Teichert, Candice[Teichert.Candice@epa.gov]; Carr, Loften[Carr.Lofte@epa.gov]; Rigger, Don[Rigger.Don@epa.gov]
From: Young, Nestor
Sent: Mon 8/10/2015 6:59:28 PM
Subject: FW: OSWER, R8 Action; Guardian; DDL COB; Aminos River Spill (Deadline: TODAY)

Shahid,

I am responding for Region 4 regarding questions about mine sites in the email chain below.

Question: How many such storage facilities are there across the country?

In Region 4, there are the five mine sites: Barite Hill, Brewer Gold, Ore Knob, Henry's Knob and Copper Basin.

Question: How does the EPA monitor the maintenance and condition of mines and dams that are holding contaminated water? Are abandoned mines, like Gold King, monitored?

All of the mine sites listed above, except Copper Basin, have ongoing Remedial Investigations, and so are being actively monitored. At the Brewer site, a removal action was conducted to prevent a catastrophic release of mine water and tailings sludge. The site is now secure and a remedial design is underway for part of the final remedy. At the Copper Basin site, most of the remedial/removal actions needed to control all of the releases at the site have been completed. Operation and maintenance is being conducted by a PRP.

Let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Nestor Young, Section Chief

Superfund Restoration and Site Evaluation Branch : Superfund Division

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency : Region 4

61 Forsyth Street, S.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Office: 404-562-8812 Cell: 404-791-1527

Email: young.nestor@epa.gov

From: Mahmud, Shahid

Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 12:53 PM

To: Adams, Bill; Biggs, Kirby; Carr, Loftan; Casanova, Rafael; Doolan, Mark; Gunter, Jason; Hanley, Jim; Hathaway, Ed; Hillenbrand, John; Hoogerheide, Roger; Jackson, Brad; Jenkins, Joy; Mahmud, Shahid; Mahoney, Michael; Marcy, Ken; Moreen, Ed; Price, Lisa; Progeess, Christina; Purcell, Mark; Riley, Gary; Root, Charlie; Sparks, Sara; Teichert, Candice; Tomten, Dave; Adams, Bill; Autrey, Brad; Aycock, Jim; Baumgarten, Gary; Bless, Diana; Butler, Barbara; Carr, Loftan; Chadwick, Dan; Cherepy, Andrea; Conway, Bette; Cozza, Daniel; Cruz, Francisco; Desai, Sheila; Deschambault, Lynda; Devito, Steve; DiCosmo, Nefertiti; Dixon, Douglas; Doolan, Mark; Forren, John; Forrest, Sabrina; Geselbracht, Jeanne; Godsey, Cindi; Goodrick, John; Grandinetti, Cami; Hanley, Jim; Hardy, Michael; Hathaway, Ed; Hillenbrand, John; Hood, Lynne; Housman, Van; Hudiburgh, Gary; Jackson, Brad; Jenkins, Joy; Jessop, Carter; Byrne, Jim; Johnson, Brent; Long, Larry; Lavaty, Ann; Lazorchak, Jim; Lensink, Andy; Lesser, Ben; Ellis, Lisa; Low, Seth; Mahmud, Shahid; Mahoney, Michele; Manoyan, Simon; Marcy, Ken; Mayer, Kevin; Miller, Anna; Egidi, Philip; Progeess, Christina; Purcell, Mark; Riley, Gary; Root, Charlie; Roy, Stephen; Russell, Carol; Teichert, Candice; Teitelbaum, Daniel; Tiago, Joseph; Tomten, Dave; Watt, Jamey; Wilkening, Matt

Subject: Fw: OSWER, R8 Action; Guardian; DDL COB; Aminos River Spill (Deadline: TODAY)

Importance: High

Do we have any numbers on the questions posed by the reporter below? I know Region 10 was doing something to respond to the Canadians to follow up on Mt. Polly but I am not sure what the other regions have. Thanks!

Shahid Mahmud
Team Leader
EPA Abandoned Mine Lands Team
703-603-8789

From: Dreyfus, Melissa G.
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 12:14 PM
To: Mahmud, Shahid
Cc: Gartner, Lois; Wells, Suzanne
Subject: FW: OSWER, R8 Action; Guardian; DDL COB; Aminos River Spill (Deadline: TODAY)

From: Cohen, Nancy
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 12:09 PM
To: Dreyfus, Melissa G.
Cc: Wells, Suzanne; Gartner, Lois
Subject: FW: OSWER, R8 Action; Guardian; DDL COB; Aminos River Spill (Deadline: TODAY)

Melissa: I want to follow the correct process on press inquiries related to the Aminos River spill but don't want to lose time either. So here's an inquiry we received from OPA. We may also get it via the EOC.

Thanks, nancy

Nancy Cohen

U.S. EPA OSWER

202.566.0171

From: Daguiard, Robert
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 11:31 AM
To: Smith, Paula; Faulk, Libby; McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa; Mylott, Richard; Cohen, Nancy
Subject: OSWER, R8 Action; Guardian; DDL COB; Aminos River Spill

All, I've sent this inquiry to Region 8 already, but it looks as though OSWER might want to take a look at the first two questions. Please let me know.

If we could get a response by COB Today, the reporter could run the story in tomorrow's paper. Please advise. Thanks, R.

From: Karl Mathiesen
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 7:45 AM
To: Daguillard, Robert
Subject: Guardian media enquiry

Hi Robert,

I'm a journalist with the Guardian writing a piece on the release from the Gold King Mine in Colorado.

I have a few questions on the background of the situation. Please do your best to answer them all.

On the general state of tailings dams and mines. How many such storage facilities are there across the country? How does the EPA monitor the maintenance and condition of mines and dams that are holding contaminated water? Are abandoned mines, like Gold King, monitored?

It has been reported that the EPA has been trying to designate the area as a superfund area for some time. When was the idea first floated? Why was it unsuccessful? Does the EPA believe the spill would have occurred regardless of the lack of superfund designation? Would that have changed the way the clean up was undertaken (ie would there have been more money available and therefore less likelihood of a failure?)?

Best,

Karl

--

Karl Mathiesen

London